



The Mission of San Diego Public Library is to . . .



Anticipate and address the educational, cultural, business and recreational interests of the public.

Develop and provide welcoming environments.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

During the last two years, San Diego Public Library has continued to grow and change in order to connect our citizens to the world of information.

Over 14 million people came through the doors of our 35 libraries in the last two fiscal years. We get more visitors than the San Diego Zoo! Our customers checked out over 13 million "items" - we can't say "books" any more, because they may have checked out audio or videotapes, CDs, or even computer programs.

In addition, many people used the library by dialing into our catalog and databases from home, or checking out our Web site to keep up with library news and events. The past two years have seen rapid changes in the information we make available in electronic format, and the infrastructure within our facilities to speed that information to every site. The near future will see easier access as a Web Catalog is launched.

But in many ways, San Diego Public Library has not changed. It is the same warm, exciting place where parents and children come for story hours and story books. Homework centers provide help for students as they develop research skills. And all ages find resources to support interests and needs, whether it is how to install a carburetor or to find an introduction to birdwatching.

I am grateful to the efforts of our creative and tireless staff, who have made all the achievements on the following pages possible. Enthusiastic Friends of the Library, community partners, volunteers, private donors and public and private granting agencies all help provide the funds and services that led to these accomplishments. Thank you to one and all.

I also extend my appreciation to the Board of Library Commissioners who continue to support San Diego Public Library with dedication.



anna Tatar

ANNA TATÁR, LIBRARY DIRECTOR SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

HIGHLIGHTS	0
	Z
CENTRAL LIBRARY	4
REACHING OUT	5
BRANCH LIBRARIES	
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY	7
TECHNOLOGY	
COMMUNITY SUPPORT	9
VOLUNTEERS 1	
FINANCIALS	0

Summer 1997

- The Library's Summer Reading Program for children and teens, "Detectives, Inc. - the Case for Reading," went on to win the national John Cotton Dana Award for the Serra Cooperative Library System of which SDPL is a part.
- "A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the United States Constitution", a national exhibition created by the Smithsonian, provided a thought-provoking look at our history.

Fall 1997

- New electronic resources were added to better serve
 San Diego's diverse community. Informe and Ethnic

 Newswatch became available at the Central Library and selected branches.
- READ/San Diego was selected as an exemplary adult literacy program by the National Institute of Literacy, and was chosen to participate in field-test development for its program "Equipped for the Future".

Winter 1998

 Local author Robert Wade was awarded the second annual Local Author Lifetime Achievement Award (LOLA) for his body of work which includes 46 mystery novels, many set in San Diego.

- Redesigned web pages provided much information about the library for those who have access and included guides to Internet searching.
- NBC 7/39, Qualcomm, the Sweet Factory and the Teacher's Credit Union joined SDPL and the Serra System and launched a new **Rewards for Reading** program to encourage families to read together.

Spring 1998

- "The Frontier in American Culture", an exhibition and series of programs began with State Librarian Kevin Starr speaking about "California and the American Dream."
- The Friends of the Library worked with SDPL and San Diego City Schools to sponsor a City-wide essay contest for students, expanding a project started by Jack Winer, President of the San Carlos Friends of the Library in San Carlos in 1997.

Summer 1998

- READ/San Diego, San Diego Public Library's adult literacy program, received the 1998 International City/County Management Association Award for Programs for the Disadvantaged.
- A "Library Awareness Campaign" kicked off area-wide, under the auspices of the Council on Literacy. Libraries were featured at Rock concerts, with a "Rock 'n Read" theme.
- The Padres joined with San Diego Public Library to encourage children to "Read Like a Pro", rewarding young readers with Padre tickets.
- Library users were pleased to have improved access to the collections as periodicals and government documents were added to the catalog.

Fall 1998

- City Heights Urban Village opened November 1, with the Weingart City Heights Library and Performance Annex offering new programs and services to this diverse community.
- Central Library's Science Section and four other locations were chosen to pilot an Environmental Information
 Project, offering information about fires, floods, earthquakes and pollution through Web access.

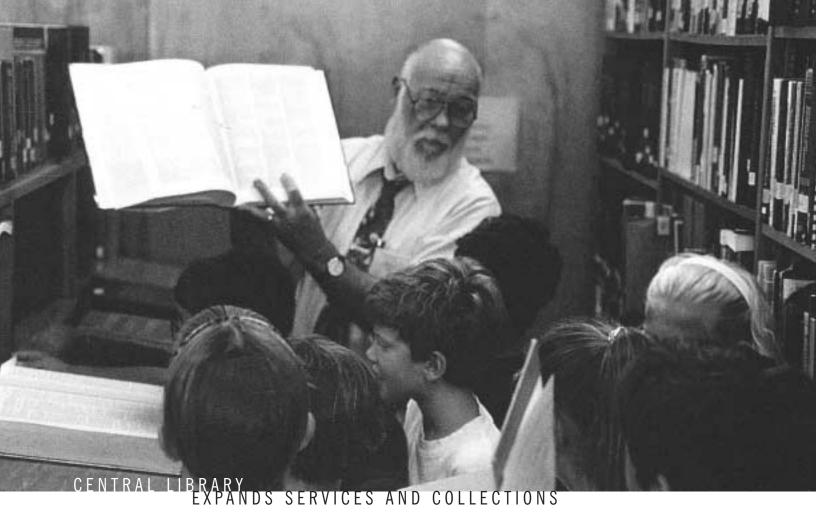
 Rotary International presented the Rancho Penasquitos Branch Library with a "World Peace and Understanding" collection.

Winter 1999

- Jane Smiley, Pulitzer Prize-winning author, kicked off the "Great American Writer's Series", a partnership with the City Club of San Diego, bringing great authors to library audiences.
- City Schools and the Libraries combined to get library cards in the hands of every elementary student. This major library card campaign resulted in about 15,000 new cards issued to area youngsters.
- Library's Web page adds "Featured Links" to help connect the community with high interest topics on the Internet.

Spring 1999

- The Carmel Mountain Ranch Library, designed by the M.W. Steele Group won a 1999 Award of Excellence for Library Architecture (from the Library Administration and Management Association and the American Institute of Architects).
- READ/San Diego benefitted from Mark McGwire's home runs hit in San Diego, as part of Starbucks Coffee "Outof-the-Park and Into Books" program. They received \$10,000 when McGwire hit two home runs!



Central Library is the heart of the San Diego Public Library System. It serves as a regional reference center, housing Serra Cooperative Library System staff, who use its collections to answer questions for patrons of member libraries. Central's professional staff selects and shapes the collections, providing advice on the development of branch system resources. Its in-depth collection makes it the largest public resource center and the only U.S. Patent and Trademark Depository south of Los Angeles.

Central Library is organized into six subject sections, a Children's Room, I CAN! Center and an adult literacy program, READ/San Diego:

Art, Music and Recreation - donations from the Legler-Benbough Foundation, the Ruocco Foundation, Toshiba and the Society for American Baseball Research helped improve collections. Chamber Music and Opera Previews continued to attract record crowds, and for the first time, some concerts were videotaped for local broadcast.

History and World Affairs - The Frontier in America; Una Storia Segrete: Italian Americans during World War II; A More Perfect Union; Hail to the Chief were among notable exhibitions. From Rosie to Roosevelt combined documentary films and discussion in a national pilot program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Literature and Languages - a four-part book discussion series, *The Bridges That Unite Us*, considered Latino literature. *Poets-in-Person* featured poets Gary Soto and weekly discussions of major American poets. Librarians Evelyn Kooperman, Brinn Vaniman and Anna Daniels selected quotations and poetry for the Urban Art Trail. Calligraphers painted these on downtown sidewalks.

Science and Industry - A \$25,000 grant from the National Library of Medicine provided AIDS/HIV-related information resources, and workshops at Central and 13 branch libraries. The Environmental Library opened at 9601 Ridgehaven Court, Suite 130, in Kearny Mesa. A

unique collaborative effort between the City's Environmental Services Department and the Library, this facility specializes in professional and technical materials in the area of landfill operation, municipal and solid waste collection and disposal, and environmental programs, including recycling. The library is open to the public Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am to 1:30 pm.

Social Sciences - staff prepared resource guides including *Tideline*, a business newsletter on subjects such as *Investing in Mutual Funds, Library Resources for Publishing*, and *International Environmental Managements*

Standard, ISO 14000. Monthly tours of the Job & Career Center are provided to residents of St. Vincent de Paul's. A successful "Law Day" connected patrons with local lawyers in a free event.

Special Collections - California, Newspaper and Wangenheim Rooms. A \$10,000 Major Urban Resource Library grant provided genealogy resources including over 100 CD/ROMs, and volunteers were trained to provide support to patrons on these resources. Records from the Wangenheim Room were entered into the online catalog for easier patron access to the collection.

THE LIBRARY REACHES OUT

To Children . . .

Central Library's Children's Room and Branch Youth
Services Librarians work together to provide the best
possible services and programs to San Diego children.
Children's Room and four branch libraries won a Science
Odyssey Grant to provide science-oriented programs to
support a PBS documentary series. Children from throughout the City participated in the 73rd and 74th Annual
Summer Reading Programs. The NBC/39 "Rewards for
Reading" Program encouraged families to read together.
Service to young adults became a priority, and a Teen
Library Services Survey was completed. Programs for
teens included training on the Internet and a Science
Odyssey program. Outreach to community schools and the
Children's Museum "Bookstop" continued, and hundreds of
tours and class visits were given.

To Persons with Disabilities . . .

Central Library's I CAN! Center hired a Disabled Services Librarian to coordinate services both at Central Library and branches throughout the system. The I CAN! Center provides state-of-the-art equipment to assist those with vision-, hearing-, and speech- impairments, as well as the physically disabled. It has collections of large print books and magazines, as well as a small collection of braille and braille/print books. A large screen computer can access

the library catalog. The Center has resource guides, catalogs from companies who provide assistive devices, and magazines and newsletters from disability organizations and associations. All branches have large print book collections and a number have specialized equipment.

To Adults with limited literacy skills . . .

READ/San Diego continued to win acclaim for its outstanding adult literacy program, with the selection by the National Institute for Literacy and the Staff Development Institute as one of 25 national adult education programs to pilot the new "Equipped for the Future" curriculum for adult literacy. READ/San Diego received a grant from the Starbucks Foundation in Seattle to support computer-aided learning and family literacy. Finally, READ/San Diego won the 1998 International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Annual Award for Programs for the Disadvantaged in Memory of Carolyn Keane. READ/San Diego celebrated ten years of service to San Diego adults with limited literacy, forming partnerships in developing learning centers and workplace literacy programs.

BRANCH LIBRARIES SERVING COMMUNITIES

Branch Libraries serve San Diegans at 33 facilities located throughout San Diego. These libraries provide customized collections of popular and current materials, and allow patrons access through on-line catalogs to the resources of the entire system, electronic databases, and the Internet. Branches range in age from 72 years old to less than a year old, and in size from 2,300 to 26,000 square feet, serving as community meeting places, art galleries, concert halls and study spaces, as well as libraries.

- Works by six artists enrich the building
- Outdoor patio seating
- Computer lab cable connections funded by Cox Communications
- Parenting Resource Center funded by Mervyn's California and Martin and Enid Gleich

Branch Facility Planning and Improvements

All over the city, branch libraries received face-lifts, new



Weingart City Heights Library opened at 3795

Fairmount Avenue in November of 1998, providing a beautiful new library, performance annex and community center for the area formerly served by the East San Diego Branch Library. This unique complex, which includes park facilities and adjoins an elementary school and the police station, is part of a large redevelopment project aimed at revitalizing the City Heights community. Local business leader and philanthropist Sol Price had the vision which gave the impetus to the City Heights Urban Village. The highlights:

- 14,850 square foot library
- 5,000 square foot Head Start Program
- Community service center
- 5,000 square foot Performance Annex

paint, carpeting and loving care during 1997-1999 thanks to the combined efforts of the City Council (which made funds available), City staff, donors, volunteers and community-minded citizens. Balboa, Kensington Normal Heights, Logan Heights, Mission Hills, North Clairemont, Ocean Beach, San Ysidro, Skyline Hills, and University Heights all received improvements.

In addition, planning and design are proceeding for a number of new or expanded libraries - College Heights, La Jolla, Mission Valley, Ocean Beach, Point Loma, Serra Mesa, and San Carlos are all in some phase of planning or design. An update of the Branch Libraries Facilities Report was completed, detailing the condition and needs for the branch libraries.

LIBRARIES CELEBRATE DIVERSITY AND PRESENT PROGRAMS

Celebrations of many kinds filled the libraries - the
Vietnamese New Year's Celebration at Linda Vista Branch
offered dragon dances and traditional music. Black History
Month was observed throughout City libraries, with storytellers, films and lectures as well as exhibits. Malcolm X
Library presented a series of videos, Journey Through the
Bloodline: a Global View of Contemporary Black
Documentary Videos. A Centennial of Philippine
Independence was feted at Mira Mesa, Rancho
Penasquitos and Skyline Hills, while Central's Social
Science Section created a resource guide for FilipinoAmericans. A Festival of Freedom is held annually in Linda
Vista, and a patriotic celebration including contests for children takes place at Rancho Penasquitos.

Music filled the air at many libraries, which presented Opera Previews (**Central Library, Scripps Miramar**

Ranch), and Chamber Music Series (Central Library, Carmel Valley, Scripps Miramar Ranch). Taylor Pacific Beach has also offered a series of concerts. The new City Heights Urban Village Performance Annex has presented a wide variety of programs including ballet, opera, a children's book festival and much more.

Art exhibits have continued at **Central Library**, featuring everything from Chinese Brush painting to origami. **Taylor Pacific Beach** has a series of monthly exhibitions which have featured local artists and have become highly regarded events. This series was featured in *American Libraries*, as an example of a successful collaboration between libraries and artists.



EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY

San Diego Public Library remains in the lead at connecting San Diego's residents with the world electronically. During these two years, major improvements brought faster access to patrons both at all the library locations and from home or work. These included:

Catalog The existing on-line catalog is moving towards a more user-friendly "web-based" version. It has been purged of inaccurate records, had periodicals and current government documents included, and "authority control" has been added to link all works by an author and provide cross-referencing among subjects in order to make it easier to search by author and subject.

Electronic Databases Databases which include full text as well as indexes of magazine and newspaper articles are available in every library, making it far easier for research from any location. Access to these valuable tools was improved during these two years by the completion of high speed T-1 lines to all libraries, and replacement of "dumb" catalog terminals with PCs.

Web Access San Diego Public Library's Web Pages now provide help in searching the Internet, as well as finding the nearest branch library and its hours, checking a current list of library events, and providing a link to the library's catalog.

Remote Access Library users can check the library's catalog from home, by dialing in directly with a modem, or through the Library's web page links. Patrons can see what books they have checked out and when they are due, as well as renew books online. In addition, they can access many of the electronic databases available in libraries!

Internet Because the Internet is a valuable research tool, every library location offers Internet access to patrons. In 1997-1999, local cable companies Cox Communications and Time Warner provided cable modems at each library, supplementing the service already available.



WE GET HELP FROM OUR COMMUNITY

At the beginning of the 20th Century, public libraries began to appear in large towns and small throughout America. A great many of these libraries were the result of gifts from Andrew Carnegie, who donated the funds to build almost 2,000 libraries.

As we enter the next century, we have come full circle. Across the nation, the growing demand for library services is outpacing tax revenues; libraries once again are turning to philanthropic individuals and organizations to fund their facilities and programs.

San Diegans are generously responding to the needs of the San Diego Public Library with both their time and their monetary gifts.

- \$57,400 in gifts and pledges, towards as goal of \$500,000, has been raised by the Point Loma Campaign Steering Committee to furnish and equip the new Point Loma Branch.
- The Friends of the San Diego Public Libraries donated more than half a million dollars to matching book, matching equipment, and capital funds during the two fiscal years; donations grew by almost 20% from one year to the next.
- During FY98, the Library launched the Library League to recognize donors who give annual gifts of \$100 and more. From an initial 238 individuals and organizations in FY98, membership grew to 332 in FY99, an increase of 39%.
- The number of gifts and the number of private-sector donors each grew by 27% from FY98 to FY99.

- Overall donations from non-government sources rose by more than 7%.
- The City of San Diego matched nearly \$1,000,000 of these donations through its Matching Library and Equipment Funds.
- Other donations of note during FY98 through FY99 included: two gifts from the Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation for library materials; two gifts from Bessie Irene Smith for the Cay Montgomery Technology Fund; gifts from Martin and Enid Gleich for the Summer Reading Program and other children's programming; gifts from the Simon and Elsie Winer Foundation for the Student Essay Contest; a gift from the Legler Benbough Foundation for the Central Library Arts Section; a contribution from the Lloyd and Ilse Ruocco Fund for materials on architecture and design; a donation from Starbucks Coffee Company for READ/San Diego; and a donation from Mrs. Albert Woodard for the Homework Center at the Kensington/Normal Heights Library.
- Funding from the Federal and State governments rose by 63% between the two fiscal years; the increase was primarily due to a more than 100% increase in the funding received from the State Public Library Foundation.



Nearly 4,500 volunteers helped the library serve the public throughout the Library system during this two year period. Volunteers donated time to help in branches, at Central Library and at READ/San Diego, tutoring learners and helping promote literacy.

- Volunteers gave 225,000 hours during this period. Using the national average value of \$13.86 per hour (provided by the Point of Light Foundation), the total value of these hours was more than \$3,118,500 million!
- Volunteers helped patrons in computer labs, assisted with graphics for library publications, helped clean and shelve books, painted branch libraries, and presented lectures and programs at libraries.

• For example, fourteen volunteers from the Personal Support Activity Detachment of the 32nd Street Naval Station helped with a clean-up in the Central Library's History Section. They were part of the seventh annual Hands-On San Diego, a volunteer effort sponsored by United Way/CHAD. After spending the morning cleaning and dusting, the volunteers toured the library. But this was not the end of their volunteer stint - a number of them decided to stay and give blood at the library's blood drive!

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HELPED IN FISCAL YEAR 1998

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HOW MUCH IS LIBRARY SERVICE REALLY WORTH?

The business of the public library is to gather books, information, and related material and to make them available *Free* to the residents of the City of San Diego. If our patrons had to buy the materials and services in Fiscal Year 1999 that we provided to them, they would have paid at least...\$156,470,965!

For example:

- 6,400,667 items (including books, audio-visual materials, etc.) were borrowed. At an average retail price of \$20, these would have cost \$128,013,340
- 1,682,865 books, periodicals and newspapers were used in libraries but not checked out. If the library user had to purchase these materials at an average retail price of \$10 these would have cost \$16,828,650
- 1,902,267 questions were answered in person and by telephone by library staff. Had the library user had to pay \$2 for each inquiry, the cost would have been \$3,804,552
- 637,017 persons used the electronic magazines and newspapers on the library's IAC database. If the user had to purchase these materials or pay for access at \$5 each, these activities would be worth \$3,185,085

FISCAL 1998

- 313,503 persons signed up and used the Internet on a library workstation. If the user had to pay for access at \$10 each, these activities would be worth \$3,135,030
- 116,437 persons attended 3,672 library programs (excluding the Film and Chamber Music Series). At a \$2.50 admission these activities would be worth \$291,093
- 23,321 children and teens registered for the Summer Reading Program. If each had paid a \$5 registration fee, this would have cost \$116,605
- 647 literacy and ESL tutors provided 39,763 hours of tutoring to 889 learners. At \$25/hour, this service would have cost \$994,075
- Over 195 students spent 5,553 hours using computer resources at the Library's Literacy Computer Lab. At \$10/hour, this would have cost \$55,530
- 4,737 persons attended Monday evening and Sunday afternoon film series. At \$5 admission, these activities would be worth \$23,685
- 2,332 persons attended the Chamber Music Series at the Central Library. At \$10 admission, these activities would be worth: **\$23,320**

These are just some of the services San Diego Public Library provided in Fiscal Year 1999. The value was much more to many users than the estimate of \$156,470,965

However, all of the library's services in Fiscal Year 1999 cost the taxpayers of the City of San Diego only \$22,782,011

FISCAL 1999

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Population Served Square Miles Served Registered borrowers New registrations Materials Circulated	1,201,900 331 711,719 102,084 6,494,616	1,254,281 331 730,455 93,078 6,400,667	Sixth largest city in the U.S., Second largest in California More than the area of the other 17 cities in the region combined More than registered voters in San Diego More than the entire population of Vista 5.40 items per capita		
Resources			General Fund Operating Budget		
	FISCAL 1998	FISCAL 1999		FISCAL 1998	FISCAL 1999
Volumes	2,646,251	2,898,605	Salaries & Wages	\$ 11,520,293	12,524,864
New books added	193,645	253,169	Benefits	3,270,330	3,607,856
New titles added	28,449	34,791	Books & Materials	1,707,181	2,151,249
Bound periodicals	88,100	88,300	Data Processing	1,889,904	2,062,720
Current subscriptions	4,012	3,710	Utilities	925,575	772,448
Government documents	1,721,207	1,711,976	Supplies, Equipment, Other	2,245,690	1,662,874
Microforms	631,583	644,583	,		
Audiovisual items	108,268	151,711	Total	\$ 21.558.973	22.782.011

1 Central Library

820 E Street, San Diego, CA 92101

2 Balboa Branch

4255 Mt. Abernathy, San Diego, CA 92117

3 Beckwourth Branch

721 San Pasqual St., San Diego, CA 92113

4 Benjamin Branch

5188 Zion Avenue, San Diego, CA 92120

5 Carmel Mountain Ranch

12095 World Trade Dr., San Diego, CA 92128

6 Carmel Valley Branch

3919 Townsgate Dr., San Diego, CA 92130

7 City Heights/Weingart Branch

3795 Fairmount Ave., San Diego, CA 92105

8 Clairemont Branch

2920 Burgener Blvd., San Diego, CA 92110

9 College Heights Branch

4710 College Ave., San Diego, CA 92115

10 Kensington/Normal Heights Branch 4121 Adams Ave., San Diego, CA 92116

11 La Jolla/Florence Riford Branch

7555 Draper Ave., San Diego, CA 92037

12 Linda Vista Branch

2160 Ulric St., San Diego, CA 92111

13 Logan Heights Branch

811 So. 28th St., San Diego, CA 92113

14 Malcolm X Library and Performing Arts Center 5148 Market Street, San Diego, CA 92115

15 Mira Mesa Branch

 $8405\ \text{New Salem St., San Diego, CA}\ 92126$

16 Mission Hills Branch

925 W. Washington St., San Diego, CA 92103

17 North Clairemont Branch

4616 Clairemont Dr., San Diego, CA 92117

18 North Park Branch

3795 31st St., San Diego, CA 92104

19 Oak Park Branch

2802 54th St., San Diego, CA 92105

20 Ocean Beach Branch

4801 Santa Monica Ave., San Diego, CA 92107

21 Otay Mesa Branch

3003 Coronado Ave., San Diego, CA 92154

22 Pacific Beach/Earl & Birdie Taylor Branch 4275 Cass Street, San Diego, CA 92109

23 Paradise Hills Branch

5922 Rancho Hills Dr., San Diego, CA 92139

24 Point Loma Branch

2130 Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, CA 92107

25 Rancho Bernardo Branch

17110 Bernardo Center Dr., San Diego, CA 92128

26 Rancho Penasquitos Branch

13355 Salmon River Road, San Diego, CA 92129

14 READ/San Diego Adult Literacy Program

5148 Market St., San Diego, CA 92115

27 San Carlos Branch

7265 Jackson Dr., San Diego, CA 92119

28 San Ysidro Branch

101 W. San Ysidro Blvd., San Diego, CA 92173

29 Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Center 10301 Scripps Lake Dr., San Diego, CA 92131

30 Serra Mesa Branch

3440 Sandrock Rd., San Diego, CA 92123

31 Skyline Hills Branch

480 S. Meadowbrook Dr., San Diego, CA 92114

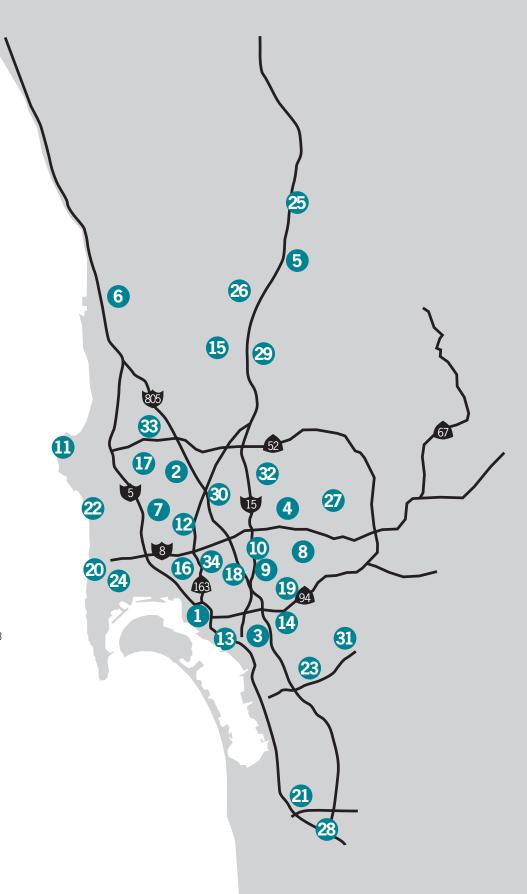
32 Tierrasanta Branch

4985 La Cuenta, Dr., San Diego, CA 92124

33 University Community Branch

4155 Governor Dr., San Diego, CA 92122 **34 University Heights Branch**

4193 Park Blvd., San Diego, CA 92103





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